

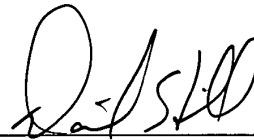
**REMARKS**

In the July 15, 2003, Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 16-25, objected to Claims 10, 33, and 42 as merely being dependent on a rejected base claim, and rejected Claims 1-9, 11-15, 26-32, 34-41, and 43-48 under 35 U.S.C. §§112 and/or 103(a). Applicant thanks the Examiner for his finding of allowable subject matter. To expedite prosecution of claims found to contain allowable subject matter, applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 26 and 36 to include all of the limitations of allowable Claims 10, 33 and 42, respectively. Importantly, these amendments are not being made for any reasons relating to patentability, and applicant reserves the right to prosecute the pre-amended claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of Claim 34, the Applicant has amended the claim in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Applicant thanks the Examiner for calling this issue to his attention. With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of Claim 44, the Applicant contends that there is proper antecedent bases for "said fragmented ions", as recited in independent Claim 36.

1 In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention represents a  
2 patentable contribution to the art and the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable  
3 action is accordingly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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